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The Good 5 Cent Cigar (2/22/2012)

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The Good 5¢ Cigar

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1971

Volume 61
Issue 62

'Just what this country needs'
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Wednesday
February 22, 2012

URI graduate talks car shows, tattoos

BY FARAH CASALINI
News Editor

Everyone at the University of Rhode Island knows the electric blue Subaru with the hot pink accents, but not everyone knows the girl behind the wheel.

The driver is Sarah Yang, who graduated last year with her bachelor's in fine arts, is now a URI graduate student studying to get her master's degree in textile merchandising.

She takes great pride in her 2007 "world-rally blue" and pink-accented Subaru Impreza WRX STI. She did all the custom aesthetics herself, and shows off her work in car shows and auto-x races.

Currently, her car has alterations including a newly refurbished cotton-candy pink interior, an external waste gate and star-shaped taillights.

"It's my dream car," she said.

Her infatuation started six years ago when she saw a Subaru Impreza for the first time. Once she photoshopped the car to have blue and pink, her favorite colors, she knew she had to have it.

Yang bought her car in



Photo courtesy of Sarah Yang

Graduate of the URI class of 2011 Sarah Yang, poses in front of her brightly colored "dream car."

March 2010 and in the same year, she entered her first car show, and won. On July 18, 2010, Yang's car won first place in the Subaru category at the United for a Cure car show.

"My first one was for fun," she said. "I didn't know what it would be like."

She went on to place first in

the Subaru category in two more car shows, until last year, when her friend suggested she enter an auto-x competition. Owners drive through a trial course that allows them the opportunity to tests the limits of their car.

"It was a blast," she said.

Continued on page 3

Alumna discusses teaching, recalls her university days

BY NANCY LAVIN
News Editor

Alumna and teacher Joan Lawson reminds University of Rhode Island students that school is for more than just having a good time.

"As a student, you have to be the one that works at learning," she said. "I remember from being a professor that we can guide you along the pathway, but there's no way to spoon-feed it to you. There has to be a working relationship between student and teacher."

Lawson graduated from URI in 1963 with a degree in chemistry, and went to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for her doctorate. In addition to raising five children, Lawson taught chemistry and physics at The Prout School from 1982-1989, and at Roger Williams University for 19 years after that.

"The most rewarding part is making chemistry as fun and exciting for other students as it is for me," Lawson said. "It always amazes me how everything [in chemistry] fits together."

Lawson added that teach-

ing has not been without challenges for her, however, recalling her time at Prout specifically.

"Because as parents we teach out students to be fearful of matches and flames, my greatest challenge there was just getting girls to light a Bunsen burner," she said.

Lawson attributed much of her success as a teacher to her time at URI, where she was the only woman in her grade majoring in chemistry, and a member and president of Alpha Xi Delta sorority. She recalled one particular professor of organic chemistry who inspired her teaching.

"He lectured in an outline style, and it just made perfect sense to me the way he did it, so that's how I modeled my teaching," she said. "They don't prepare university professors to be professors, you know, you all just kind of do it by the seat of your pants."

Lawson remembered other parts of URI not quite as fondly.

"When I was a freshman,

Continued on page 3

Indoor track teams compete in A-10 Conference Championship

BY NIKITA DUKE
Staff Sports Reporter

The University of Rhode Island's Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field teams competed in the Atlantic-10 Conference Championships last week.

The women's team placed fifth, whereas the men's team celebrated an A-10 Championship for the second year in a row on Saturday. The men's team scored 186.5 total during the competition, held in the Mackal Field House. It was their seventh indoor league championship overall.

The Rams managed an impressive five victories in various events on the second day of the conference championship, including the 400-meter dash (freshman Jalen Young), the triple jump (junior Ronald Woodley), shot put (junior Andrew Piscitelli), the

4x400 relay and the 500-meter run (sophomore Anthony Davidson).

In addition to his win in the 400-meter dash, Young was also honored as the Most Outstanding Rookie Performer while his coach, John Copeland, was named the Conference Coach of the Year. This was Copeland's seventh time receiving this honor in the indoor championships.

Victories aside, one of the biggest factors leading up to Rhody's title was the depth of the team throughout the two days.

URI's freshman Ben Lakeman and sophomore Mark Castilletti placed third and fourth, respectively, in the 400, while team mate, junior Victor Boonham placed sixth in the 200. Junior Rainford Thomas and freshman Matt Dionne finished in seventh and eighth place in the high jump and sen-

ior Nate Wigton placed eighth in the 1,000-meter run.

Freshman Mike DiMambro broke a URI record with a point total of 5,129 in the heptathlon, where he placed second. He beat the previous conference record set last year at 4,888 by Andrew Reigstad.

When asked how the team managed to pull through for the big win, junior Corey Coogan's answer was very simple.

"We really came together as a team," Coogan said. "We got it done."

URI's women's team also finished strong, placing fifth in the conference with 67.5 points.

The team finished behind the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the team title winner, with 161 points. Taking second was Dayton University with 106.5 points,

Continued on page 3

Rhody pic of the day



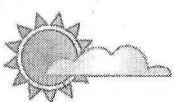
Lauren Trad | Cigar

Matt DeCosta of The Famous Winters lets the music seep into the crowd.

The Good 5-Cent Cigar

Today's forecast
55 °F

Spring is in
the air!



Nickel Brief:

Check out tomorrow's issue to learn about the Shadow Day happening on campus.

Want to find out how the new "Ghost Rider" movie was?

See page 2.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

New book offers insights into human unconscious, social interaction

BY CONOR SIMAO
Entertainment Writer

Readers of *The Social Animal*, the latest non-fiction book by New York Times columnist David Brooks, may be familiar with the author's customary style.

In his op-eds, Brooks often makes use of historical and interdisciplinary patterns to explain and contextualize the latest in political world news. In the book, he takes an interesting approach, blending the past and present to attempt clarity, but how does this style translate when written into a long-form exposition?

In *The Social Animal*, Brooks employs a fictional narrative used cleverly as an

illustrative vehicle. Through the life stories of Harold and Erica, he explains to readers how Level One cognition—the mysterious unconscious—is an influential powerhouse that subdues our conscious mind when it comes to guiding social interaction. The two protagonists are followed from childhood to old age, allowing us to examine their lives and thoughts extensively in the process.

The story itself is underwhelming as fiction. The characters are one dimensional and characterized directly, if not impersonally. Thus, it would be unfair to treat this blatant nonfiction as an artistic piece when it achieves so much more in the realm of

social science. It aspires to drive home an overarching theory and, to this end, uses evidence quite effectively. Brooks explains through countless mentions of academic studies how conscious reasoning, our rational decision making process, is merely a function of the ambiguous underworld of natural human bias and emotional impulse that exists beyond our easy access.

How does the author, though, propose we steer the complex engine of our Level One way of thought? On this issue, *The Social Animal* ventures on into the op-ed mode that its narrator knows best. Unfortunately, an endless string of scientific theories

like the one used to support the book's central idea, the importance of social unconsciousness, is not utilized to illustrate Harold's, the transparent manifestation of the columnist behind this piece, socio-political suggestions. That's not to say important viewpoints are not brought up. With the advent of more advanced cognitive science at our disposal, we can connect the dots that *The Social Animal* paints in front of us.

By synthesizing the published works of psychologists the world over, Brooks connects science to culture and draws insightful, though speculative, conclusions. Whether or not these deductions are strong may be a sub-

ject for reasonable debate, but it's impossible not to find the premise of this work at least provoking.

At one point, readers are treated to a side-by-side analysis of the British and French Enlightenments. It happens that recent psychology corroborates the central ideas of compassion and emotion that dominated in the former. Adam Smith (*The Theory of Moral Sentiments*) may have set the intellectual ball in motion, and modern science may have confirmed portions of his ideology, but it takes a writer like David Brooks and a plainly written piece like *The Social Animal* to make these crucially significant realizations accessible.

'Ghost Rider' an over-the-top exercise in poor filmmaking, but guilty entertainment

BY MATT GOUDREAU
Entertainment Writer

Following the critical and commercial success of Christopher Nolan's "Batman Begins," comic book films experienced a complete overhaul. With few exceptions, comic book films prior to 2005 were solely used to capitalize on the name and earn box office revenue at the expense of the comic book and filmmaking in general. Since 2005, almost all comic book films have taken darker and more realistic tones while simultaneously being intelligent in their writing and staying true to the comics they came from. In 2007, "Ghost Rider" was released to a negative backlash from critics and fans alike, who criticized the film for hammy acting, a generic plot and a weak script. In the sequel, these problems are not only present, but exponentially magnified, leading to a mess of a film which is so bad, it's good.

I cannot bring myself to say "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance" is one of the worst comic book films to be made because the filmmakers themselves thoroughly acknowledge in the film they aren't trying. The movie is ridiculed with terrible jokes and sight gags, an even more generic plot than the first and a Nicholas Cage performance so over-the-top it rivals his performance in the unintentional comedic remake "The Wicker Man." Comic book films such as "Batman and Robin," "Superman 3" and "Catwoman" attempt to be sophisticated and play the material straight, which is why I view those films as far worse than "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance."

The films I mentioned all fail to provide entertainment because of the clashes between the delivery of the material and how it is written on the page, creating an agonizing viewing experience as an audience member. "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance," while incredibly comedic and terrible as a film, is thoroughly entertaining and I was never bored watching the film. This came as no surprise, as the Marvel Knights banner other release "Punisher: War Zone" had the same problems. Both films acknowledge how ridiculous and over-the-top they are with fourth wall jokes, insane violence and campy performances.

The story is not a direct sequel so much as it is a reboot, as Johnny Blaze is already established as Ghost Rider, but is given an alternate back story. He makes the deal with a new devil, not portrayed by Peter Fonda, to save his father, but this form of Satan goes by the name Rourke. Right off the bat, this film is disjointed and portrays a different continuity. I really do like the first half hour of this film, as Blaze is played less for laughs and is given a darker edge. He struggles to control his demonic spirit within and is living in Eastern Europe. In case you are wondering, both Fonda and love interest Eva Mendes are absent from this film which further distinguishes it from the first film.

Blaze is told by a mysterious member of a Christian tribe that he can cure Blaze of his curse. The catch is that he needs to save a mother and child from Rourke, who wants to possess the child so he can take his form.

Desperate to rid himself of the curse, Blaze accepts and that thin thread of a plot is the focal point of this 95-minute mindless action film. While I appreciate the film is trying to be more in tune with the comics by having a simpler story, I am frustrated at the same time. The directors of this film were the masterminds behind the "Crank" series, which you can see based on the style of the film. The action is fast and shot incredibly close, but it lacks any sort of meaning. The CGI during the battle scenes is atrocious, as every villain Blaze fights disintegrates with the same effect. The last fight scene towards the end is what the film as a whole should have used as a guide, but the other ones feel redundant as a result.

The movie is flooded with terrible acting. Nicolas Cage used to be one of the most talented actors out there, but he has almost become a parody of his former self. This movie won't do much to help his image. While he plays Blaze in the first film as subdued, here he is over the top and obnoxious, complete with loud laughter, strange and contorted facial expressions and poor line delivery. It's very similar to Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Batman and Robin," the 20-ton elephant in the room that is so over the top you cannot help but laugh. The supporting roles including Ciaran Hinds as Rourke, Johnny Whitworth as the demonic henchman similar to Ghost Rider, and an especially out-of-place Christopher Lambert cameo further pushes this film more towards campy made-for-TV

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Molière's
Tartuffe
Translation by Ranjit Bolt

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URI
FOUNDATION

The 2012 Excellence Awards

Nominations are now being accepted.

Write to us! Tell us who among your peers, coworkers and/or teachers is deserving of this special recognition and why.

Awards are presented in four categories: **Administrative, Scholarly, Staff and Teaching.** Winners are honored at an event hosted by the URI and URIF presidents. They also receive a framed citation and a cash award.

The award is very competitive, so repeat nominations of worthy candidates are strongly encouraged!

All it takes is a letter or email.

We must receive your nomination by Friday, March 16th at 4:00 p.m.

Please send to Ronda Hammond at the URI Foundation,
79 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881
rhammond@foundation.uri.edu/401.874.9532

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CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

LIVE WOLF PROGRAM! Learn about wolves and meet one in person! 23 February, 7pm Union Ballroom. Contact Adam at uriwildlifesociety@gmail.com or (401) 603-8208!

Living

Four-bedroom, 2-bath, 2-full kitchen, 2012-2013 school year rental available in Eastward Look. Fully furnished. See vrbo.com/291403 for more info + pics. Email.

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Graduate

From page 1

She said she expects to continue to participate in a mix of both car shows and auto-x competitions.

When not participating in car shows or attending classes to finish her master's degree, Yang interns for "Turning Technologies," the company who manufactures the "clickers" used in some classrooms. She trains professors in the use of these clickers, troubleshoots and sometimes goes to classrooms to offer "extra support" for professors.

Besides her car, some people might also recognize her as the girl with an assortment of tattoos and piercings. When prompted about how many she had of each, she said her original 20-something piercings has dwindled to 10, but for her tattoos, she struggled to find an answer.

"It's hard to count," she said.

She wears her heart on her sleeve with a tattooed combination of two of her favorite things - cheetah print and weapons from the video game, Call of Duty - which wraps around her entire right arm, which, in tattoo slang, is called a sleeve.

She also has a tattoo that says "Made in Taiwan" on the back of her neck that displays her pride in her roots.

After she finishes her master's degree, Yang hopes to go on to teach in higher education and maybe be a tattoo artist on the side.

Track

From page 1

Duquesne University in third with 97.5 points and Temple University in fourth with 83 points.

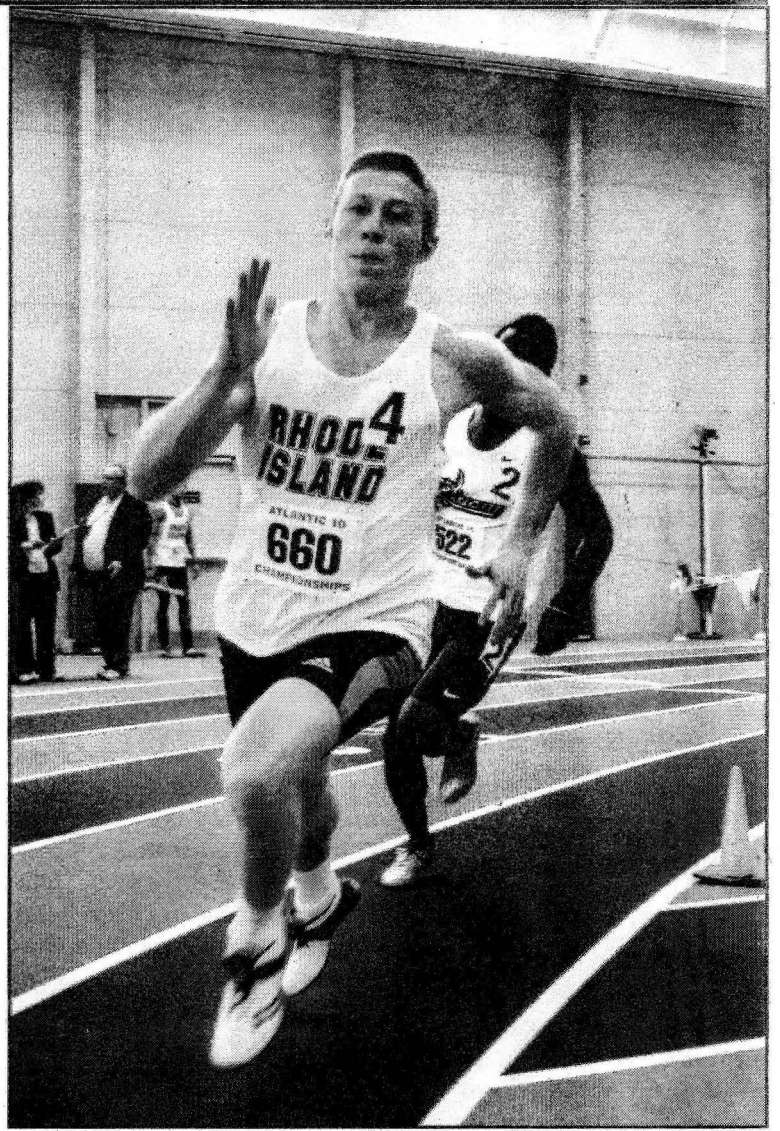
Junior Shannon Meehan kicked off the day with a win in the high jump and a score of 1.70 meters, her personal best. Meehan and a St. Louis competitor both achieved the winning mark within the same amount of tries, thus the winner was determined by way of a jump off. Meehan defeated her competitor in the third round of the jump off, claiming the team's first victory of the day.

"I've never actually been this tired or sweaty from a high jump," Meehan said. "Usually it's not that intense, but it was good. I liked it. I like competition."

Graduate student Siobhan Breagy also scored a win for Rhody, placing first in the 1,000-meter run with a time of 2:52:87. Breagy's time was just .34 seconds away from the conference record in the 1,000.

In addition to the team's two wins on day one of the championship, sophomore Jennifer Christian placed in two events for Rhody. Christian placed third in the 60-meter dash and eighth in the 200.

Day two brought forth more Rhody top finishers. Junior Genevieve Rybicki placed fifth in shot put, while



Alex Bouthillier | Cigar

Freshman Ben Lakeman comes 5th in the Men's 400-meter dash last Friday.

teammate, sophomore Hannah Janeczak placed sixth in the 60. Freshman Lauren Burke also managed to be a top finisher for Rhody, placing eighth in the 500-meter run.

Following their big performances on Saturday, both the women's and men's teams

will travel to Boston for the New England Indoor Championships, which are to be held from Feb. 24-25.

"We [have] to go in there focused," Coogan said. "We have to go in there ready to try and ready to win another championship."

Alumna

From page 1

we were locked in our dorms at 8:30 at night, so you couldn't go to the library," she said, explaining that this was difficult when taking 21 credits, which was normal at the time.

Lawson added that her time in her sorority was particularly rewarding, and that she has continued to see her sorority sisters from URI in the years after graduation. Earlier this month, the URI Greek Life presented Lawson with the 2012 Award of Distinction for her dedication to the Greek community.

Even though she stopped teaching, Lawson remains active in the community, heading the building corporation board for Alpha Xi Delta as it pursues renovation, and tutoring in chemistry and physics at South Kingstown High School.

"So many people are active in your life, that it's important that you be active in the lives of others and give back as much as you can," she said. "That's something I've tried to teach my children."

To current URI students, Lawson advised that they keep an open attitude at all times.

"Absorb everything you can, and never stop learning," she said.

Ghost

From page 2

satire. This satire is specifically demonstrated in the script. The film is mainly told through narration, complete with Cage speaking with moving pictures. There is one joke about the devil taking many forms, only to show famous dictators and a picture of Jerry Springer. This proved to me the filmmakers were having fun and didn't care about winning an award but only about providing entertainment.

When it ended, I didn't know what to conclude from what I witnessed. With a few days to think, I will say "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance" is a terrible film, but terrible fun at the same time. It's certainly not good by any means, but it is not something that is unwatchable like so many other comic

book films. If you're a fan of the first film or just like watching bad films, this is for you. This may sound like a double-edged statement, but it's one of the best bad films I have ever seen.

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Rhody SPORTS



The Shide Lines: URI baseball program on rise

BY JONATHAN SHIDELER
Sports Staff Reporter

What if I were to tell you that there is a local sports team that has improved year after year, beaten nationally ranked opponents nearly 10 times in the last few seasons, and has also landed consecutive recruiting classes within the top 50 each of the past two seasons?

The mystery team is none other than our own University of Rhode Island baseball team.

This season is going to be a special one for the Rams, as they were picked to finish second in the Atlantic 10 pre-season poll. However this spring means more than just rankings to the 2012 Rams baseball team.

In October, they lost a teammate when 20-year-old Joe Ciancola passed away following an early season practice, and the team plans on playing out this year in his memory.

"The guys are going to go

out, compete and play each game for Joe," Coach Jim Foster said.

The baseball program has continued to improve every year by bringing in student-athletes not only with a high talent level but also athletes who can develop and get better each year.

"It's important not only to me, but all of the coaches to make sure we get these guys better each year they're here," Foster said.

This year the Rams have a tough schedule against some highly-ranked opponents, but the coaching staff knows playing against high-level opponents is one of the best ways to improve as a unit.

In the last three years, five former Rams players have been drafted in Major League Baseball's first-year-player draft. Most notably Eric Smith, a right-handed pitcher who, in 2009, was picked 60th overall by the Arizona Diamondbacks and has moved up through their farm

system since.

Another reason for the team and the fans to be excited is the new field and hitting barn that has been added to the baseball complex. A complex that, within the next couple years, will be one of Rhode Island's premier baseball stadiums, with the additions of stands and concessions.

Assistant Coach Raphael Cerrato, who used to play baseball for the Rams in the early '90s left his head-coaching job at University of New Haven to come be an assistant back here.

"I came back because this team has a chance to go to Omaha," Cerrato said.

People across the state should take advantage of the talent this program has and could have in future years (with more athletic scholarships in years to come). As it stands, the team has the opportunity to become one of Rhode Island's premier college sport programs.

Men's basketball team continues losing streak, falls to St. Bonaventure University

BY MIKE ABELSON
Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island men's basketball lost its fifth straight game Saturday as it fell to St. Bonaventure University 81-61 in front of a sold out arena in Olean, N.Y.

St. Bonaventure senior Andrew Nicholson sliced the Rams for 32 points and 13 rebounds in his last home game.

"It was senior night for them and the place was sold out," Rhode Island head coach Jim Baron said. "Andrew Nicholson is one of the best players in the league, and he stepped up to the plate. They hit shots early, and we, for some reason, were flat early and we missed shots. They got the lead on us and they kept building on it."

The Rams played from behind the entire game. St. Bonaventure scored the first five points and eventually opened up a 23-point first half lead. The Bonnies connected on 62.5 percent of their first half field goals compared to just 25.9 percent by the Rams.

Freshman guard Mike Powell was one of the few bright spots for the Rams. Powell dropped in 20 points and connected on seven of Rhode Island's 19 field goals.

"He stepped up and made plays and made shots," Baron said.

Junior forward Nikola Malesevic was the only other Ram in double figures with 14 points.

The Rams, who rank No. 50 in the country in rebounds per game, were out rebounded 36-32 by the Bonnies.

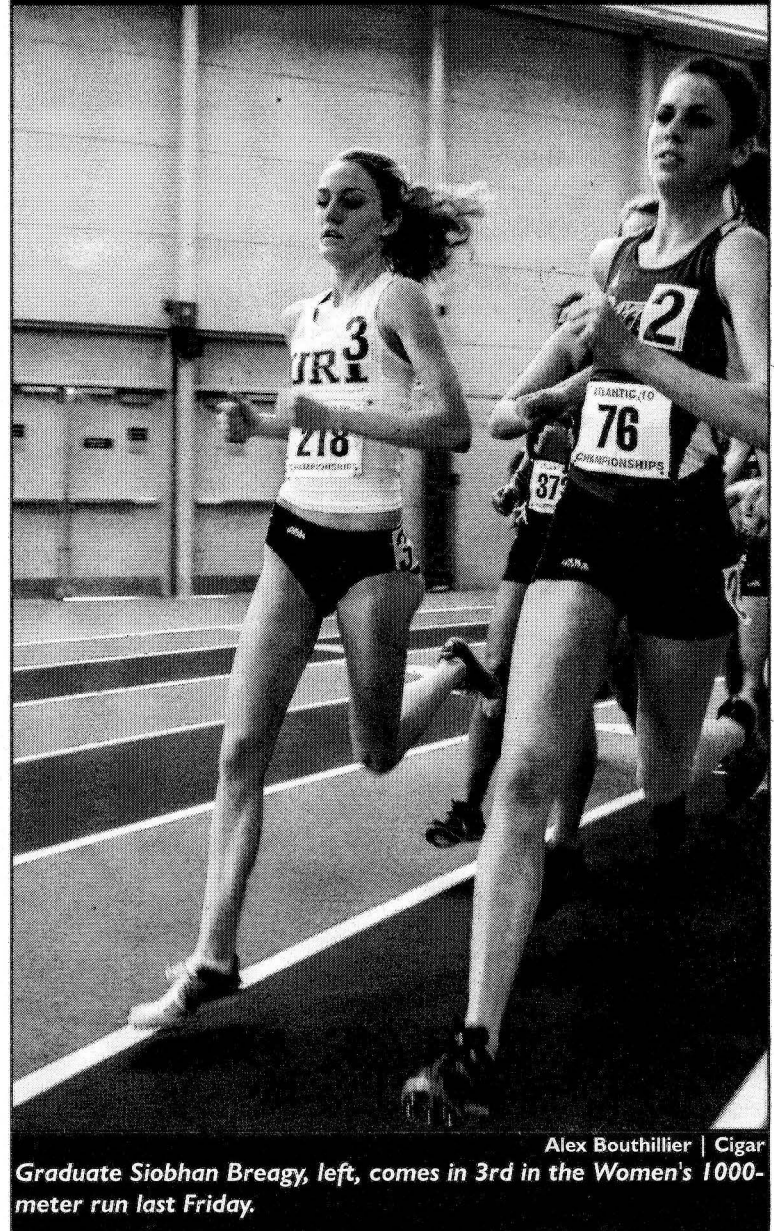
"We [have] to rebound the ball, and we've got to make plays without putting them on the free throw line," Baron said.

The Rams are now 5-23 on the year and have three games remaining. Baron said that the goal for the team now is no different than it was when the season started back in November.

"I think the goal is to win as many as we can down the stretch," Baron said. "We're playing Saint Louis [University], who's won five in a row now, and they're probably one of the hottest teams in the league. We've got to take it one game at a time, and we've got to try to go after this game."

The Rams have the week off before St. Louis comes to Kingston on Saturday afternoon.

Rhody Sports pic of the day



Alex Bouthillier | Cigar
Graduate Siobhan Breagy, left, comes in 3rd in the Women's 1000-meter run last Friday.

MLB adjusts rule to prevent stalling for relief pitchers

NEW YORK (AP) — Maybe this should be the Joe Maddon Rule.

A season after the Tampa Bay manager put outfielder Sam Fuld to the mound to warm up for the sole purpose of giving a reliever extra time in the bullpen, Major League Baseball closed the loophole.

MLB has amended Official Baseball Rule 3.05 regarding such shenanigans. The change will "prohibit a manager from sending his current pitcher out to warm up with no intention of having him pitch because a relief pitcher is not ready to enter the game."

The Playing Rules Committee proposed the tweak in the offseason and it was approved by MLB, the players' union and umpires.

Maddon hadn't heard about the change until being asked this week.

"I know this, that all the odd kind of moments that occur during the season regarding umpiring, that they do write them down, and they'll talk about it at the end of the season. So, it doesn't surprise me. And it also indicates that they're on top of things, so I kind of like it," he

said at the Rays' spring training camp.

"That was an anomaly. That'll probably never come up again," he added. "The other thing with Sammy. That was just something that we pulled out of our hat, just to try to make sure that we got everybody warmed up and ready to go."

The Rays were playing at Milwaukee last June when the episode occurred. Fuld pinch-hit for reliever J.P. Howell in the top of the eighth inning, and Tampa Bay scored three runs to take an 8-1 lead.

Maddon had planned on using reliever Joel Peralta while the game was close. Once the Rays pulled away, Maddon wanted Cesar Ramos to pitch in the bottom half.

But because Ramos wasn't ready, Maddon sent Fuld — who batted in the pitcher's spot but has not actually pitched since high school — to the mound to warm up. Once Fuld was done, Maddon brought in Ramos.

The next day, after the Rays won 8-4, Maddon admitted he'd fudged things and apologized to the umpiring crew.

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